Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/16/73

Dear Mr. Daughen,

Enclosed are copies of my today's letters to Little, Brown and Howard Roffman about Specter's threat to sue over the O'Donnell-Powers book. Although it is possible, I don't think Specter is serious about suing. I think he wanted a bit of comfort in facing himself and a thing he could talk about. He knows he has done much worse than O'Donnell said and that I can prove it.

My concern about Howard is genuine. He is a fine young man, as fine as any I've known and probably brighter (I'm not carboning him on this). I feel about him as I would a son. He visits here often and goes through my materials freely.

I do think any public attention on this could hurt him. He has bearded Specter twice, face-to-face, to my knowledge. Once in Specter's office, once when Specter spoke at Penn. Howard then took the audience away from Specter and had it booing him. There was an incident when some of Specter's bodyguards came up to Howard afterwards. And I rather suspect that if nothing did happen, Howard's folks would be frightened and worried, as they have been in the past.

I also seek no attention. However, if it serves a constructive purpose, I would not run from it.

How much Specter knows about what I know about him I don't know. Federal surveillance on me has been fairly extensive. I've got carbon copies of some of it and substantial evidence of more. I've finally decided to try to do something about it, but until it comes to pass I want nothing said about it. I still have an agent in England and I've querried him and I've just written the ACLU to see if they'd be interested in taking the case. I've also sued the FBI a couple of times. The first got me a summary judgement and the information I sought and the second is right now before an appeals court. I think I'm going to win that one, too, and I fear that any public attention to it will pressure the judges more than the situation does. I'm happy that it has been entirely unreported and want it to remain that way, pending decision. I know the feds know what I've got and how I got it. I don't know if they've told Specter. I'm inclined to think they may have, in their own interest.

My letter to Little, Brown refers to official documentation only. I've also interviewed a number of witnesses Specter handled for the Warren Commission and asked them the questions he didn't. That book is completed, but commercially the subject is still a taboo, as Howard is learning, and for all practical purposes is commercially dead. The campaign to destroy the credibility of criticism of the official mythology about the JFK assassination has succeeded, aided in no small part by the excesses, insanities and stupidities of the dedicated wrong among the critics. So, the man decent people in publishing, like Jerry Sions, can't do anything in the face of policy decisions that now, unlike the past, have commercial validity.

I call the book to which I refer POST MORTEM. It has many taggets, but Specter is the bulls-eye of each not because I am out to get him but because he did what I write about. I don't think you will find a more definitive or less contradictable work of non-fiction. If you have need to know what it says and proves, Howard can tell you. I do ask that confidentiality be preserved for many reasons all important to me. If you want to discuss it with me, I think it would be wise to have Howard on an extension for he may recall what I forget. And thanks for the good reporting. Sincerely,